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DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer
of Health
for 1953

G. H. H. WAYLEN, M.B., D.P.H., Cantab.
Medical Officer of Health for the Devizes Rural District

DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1953

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District for the year 1953.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. H. WAYLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Browfort, Devizes.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres—63,515.

Population as estimated by Registrar-General—15,500.

Number of Inhabited Houses—3,864.

Rateable Value—£69,431.

Product of a Penny Rate—£289 7s. 9d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births	120	99	219
Legitimate	116	96	212
Illegitimate	4	3	7
Stillbirths	1	2	3
Legitimate	—	2	2
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Live Birth Rate (Crude)			14.13
Live Birth Rate (Adjusted)			21.05
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales ...			15.5
Comparability Factor			1.49
Number of Deaths from all causes ...			263
Death Rate (Crude)			15.22
Death Rate (Adjusted)			13.7
Comparability Factor			0.92
Death Rate for England and Wales ...			11.4
Deaths of Infants under one year ...	4	1	5
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant Mortality Rate			22.83

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	26.8
Deaths as result of Pregnancy and Childbirth	Nil.
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil.
Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales	0.76
Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age (all legitimate)... ..	3 1 4

CAUSES OF DEATH.

As returned by Registrar-General, 1953.

					Male.	Female.	Total.
1.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	...	—	2	2	2
2.	Tuberculosis—Other	...	...	—	2	2	2
3.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	—	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	1	—	1	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach...	...	...	1	3	4	4
11.	Malignant Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus	...	...	1	1	2	2
12.	Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	...	...	—	3	3	3
13.	Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	...	...	—	3	3	3
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	8	9	17	17
15.	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	...	...	—	1	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	—	1	1	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	9	14	23	23
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina...	...	...	16	10	26	26
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease...	...	...	8	1	9	9
20.	Other Heart Diseases	...	...	32	57	89	89
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	3	—	3	3
22.	Influenza	...	...	2	—	2	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	4	7	11	11
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	2	—	2	2
25.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	—	1	1	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	—	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea...	...	...	—	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	1	—	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	—	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	...	...	—	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations...	...	...	—	1	1	1
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	12	8	20	20
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	2	2	4	4
34.	All other Accidents...	...	...	4	—	4	4

			Male.	Female.	Total.
35.	Suicides	...	3	1	4
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	—	—	—
	All Causes	...	109	127	236

Satisfactory features are :—

The absence of deaths from the major infectious diseases (Nos. 4, 6 and 7) and in Childbirth (No. 30).

The main causes of death were :—

1. Malignant Neoplasms (Nos. 10-14 inclusive) ... 30 (12.7%)
2. Diseases of Cardiovascular System (Nos. 17-21 inclusive)... 150 (63.6%)

Both the above point to an ageing population.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health—G. H. H. Waylen, M.B., D.P.H., Cantab.
Chief Sanitary Inspector (also Surveyor and Water Engineer)—
G. E. Williams, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—V. C. S. Robey, M.S.I.A.

Housing Inspector—E. C. Bishop.

A single large Committee (Health and Housing Committee) deals with all health matters.

Smaller sub-committees, either standing or *ad hoc*, go into detail.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Devizes and District Hospital.

Total Bed complement	...	...	...	60
Average daily number of occupied beds	...	...	...	45.98
Number of Patients admitted	Male	556		
	Female	588		
	Total	1,144		

Number of Operations performed—Major	...	...	...	121
Intermediate	...	...	...	166
Minor	...	...	...	663

Radiological Department.

In-patient Attendances	...	...	...	464
Out-patient Attendances	...	...	...	2,896

Pathological Department.

Number of Visits...	...	...	...	6,162
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Physiotherapy Department.

In-patient Attendances	...	...	...	884
Out-patient Attendances	...	...	...	11,038

Out-Patient Department.

Number of new Out-Patients	...	...	...	...	...	3,326
Number of Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	9,878

Plans for a new Out-Patients' Department of adequate size and scope were passed and permission to start obtained; building began in October, 1953.

Nursing.

The hospital has been more adequately and effectively staffed, both by fully-trained nurses and assistants than in recent years, an improvement attributed to its now being an Assistant Nurses' Training School.

MATERNITY SERVICES.

Institutional Confinements from the Devizes Rural District.

Live Births at Devizes Maternity Hospital	...	...	...	137
Stillbirths at Devizes Maternity Hospital	...	...	...	2
Live Births at other Maternity Hospitals	...	...	...	6
Stillbirths at other Maternity Hospitals	...	...	...	Nil

Domiciliary Confinements in the Devizes Rural District.

Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Almost four children out of every five were born in some Hospital, not at home.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	307
Acute Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis—Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE GROUP	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	1

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

AGE GROUP	Under I	I	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	Total under 15
Primary immunisations completed during 1953	58	73	6	1	17	31	13	199
Reinforced injections administered during 1953 	—	—	—	—	24	159	104	287
Total immunised child population at 31st December, 1953	6	106	128	159	136	133* 791†	274* 640†	2,373

* Immunised before 31st December, 1948. † Immunised since 1st January, 1949.

- (i) Children aged 0—2 immunised during
the year 59.8% of Registered Live Births.
- (ii) Children aged 5—9 immunised during
the year, some aged 4—9 by re-
forcement doses 100% of School entrants during
the year.

VACCINATION.

AGE GROUP	Under I	I	2—4	5—14	15 or over
Vaccinations 	84	7	3	8	1
Re-vaccinations ...	—	—	1	23	32

HOUSING.

Number of Houses completed during the year :—

	Traditional. Non-traditional.		Total.
1. By Local Authority ...	... 42	26	68
2. By Private Enterprise ...	13	—	13
	55	26	81

Number of Houses under construction at Year's End :—

	Traditional.	Non-traditional.	Total.
1. By Local Authority ...	18	42	60
2. By Private Enterprise ...	9	—	9
	—	—	—
	27	42	69
	—	—	—

Number of Houses Approved, or for which Licences have been granted but not started at year's end :—

	Traditional.	Non-traditional.	Total.
1. By Local Authority...	—	—	—
2. By Private Enterprise ...	10	—	10
	—	—	—
	10	—	10
	—	—	—

Sites Purchased during the Year :—

1. Beechingstoke. 1.789 acres.
2. Bishops Cannings (Long Clays). 0.998 of an acre.
3. Bromham (The Pound). 9.781 acres.
4. Bromham (Minty's Top). 4.479 acres.
5. Great Cheverell (Hill Corner). 0.431 of an acre.
6. Little Cheverell (Westbury Road). 0.473 of an acre.
7. Potterne (Ryeleaze). 6.137 acres.
8. West Lavington (Wheatsheaf Field). 2.849 acres.

Sites for which negotiations were in progress at year's end :—

1. Erlestoke (Village Street).
2. Patney (Hostel Site).
3. Rowde (Conscience Lane).
4. Urchfont (Romains Lane).

Number of New Houses completed post-War, at end of 1953 :—

Council ...	328.
Private ...	76.

Groups of houses were completed at Seend (14 Traditional), Worton (20 Non-Traditional) and Potterne (18 Traditional), also one or two pairs at Erlestoke, Great Cheverell and Easterton.

For demolitions, etc., see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Reconditioning Repairs.

Some 50 dwellings were dealt with informally, and needful repairs carried out.

In half of the above, improvements of varying kind and degree were carried out :

- (i) By new structures to provide increased sleeping or kitchen space;
- (ii) by modifications within the existing walls;

- (iii) by provision of bathrooms and flush closets connected to new septic tanks.

In a few cases pipes were laid in anticipation of being able to connect to the new sewers now authorised.

Allocation of New Houses.

The allocation of new houses from among a numerous list of applicants sometimes invites criticism. In fact, each case is considered on its merits and several factors may have a bearing on a single case, e.g., a young couple with a child or two may be living in a parent's home, and may be there overcrowding the sleeping accommodation; the dwelling itself may be substandard, and also a tied cottage now required by a farmer for a younger worker. Lastly, serious health reasons may be present, such as tuberculosis or the aftermath of rheumatic fever. I try to advise on the relevance of claims on health grounds, and the relative degrees of housing unfitness.

I have classified the tenants of new houses, or fresh tenants of existing Council houses on the above lines, indicating the main reason for their acceptance :—

				New Houses.	Changes in Tenancy.
(i)	Without a home of their own ...	...	...	19	9
(ii)	From substandard houses ...	...	...	37	7
(iii)	From outside area ...	...	...	5	1
(iv)	Health grounds ...	...	...	1	1
(v)	Transfers, etc. ...	...	...	6	-
Totals ...				68	18

WATER SUPPLIES.

At the year's end the following progress had been made towards augmenting your supplies :—

(i) The village of Erlestoke had been supplied from the existing source purchased by your Council from the War Department.

(ii) Tenders had been provisionally accepted for works on Scheme (2) (N. Eastern), and on Scheme (3) (S. Eastern); and a tender for the projected borehole at Chirton submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

(iii) Tenders for work on Scheme (1) (N. Western) have been invited.

(iv) Negotiations by the District Valuer have begun for the purchase of a site at The Warren, West Lavington.

Some material (pipes) was ordered in anticipation of final acceptance of Tenders.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

In general, outline schemes for the greater part of the District have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Wiltshire County Council.

(i) A scheme for the drainage of Rowde only was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

(ii) An outline scheme for Seend Village was forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

(iii) A revised scheme for the Ryeleaze Housing Site was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

(iv) The Council have advertised the scheme for Urchfont.

(v) At Wedhampton, terms for the purchase of a site have been agreed by the District Valuer.

Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, 1953

Mr. Chairman, Madam, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit in conjunction with your Medical Officer of Health my Report for the year 1953.

The duties of a Sanitary Inspector are defined by law. My Report contains many particulars which are not within the purview of a Sanitary Inspector, e.g., Water Supply, Sewerage, Town and Country Planning, Building Surveying, etc., but I have ventured to include some reference to those activities because they have a direct bearing on Public Health in the widest sense and in the hope that they might be of interest to the Council.

A perusal of the Summary of Inspections on the last page of the Report gives a good indication, in so far as it is possible to do so statistically, of the activities of your Staff. It is an approximate index of output, but a very considerable proportion of the work of the Department, such as correspondence, reports, specifications, plans, interviews of explanation and advice, compilation of statistics, etc., cannot be recorded in this way.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing the appreciation of the Department for the happy relationship which exists between Dr. Waylen and the Staff, and for his patience and wise guidance.

I wish to thank also the Staff of the Department for the efficient and conscientious way in which they have carried out their duties, and the Council for their continued appreciation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. E. WILLIAMS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

The easing of the demand for new houses, noted in the 1952 Report, continued, and it appears that the portion of housing requirement due to families having no separate home of their own has been fulfilled. The problem now resolves itself into the provision of houses for people who are living in unfit dwellings or in overcrowded conditions, or in unsuitable houses by reason of their size, lack of modern conveniences or distance from place of work. The needs that arise from these causes can to a limited extent be met by the repair, reconditioning and re-equipment of existing houses.

Applications were received and approved in respect of four houses under the Improvement Grant Scheme, and two were completed.

The other two were not proceeded with owing to the limitation of rent increase permitted under the Hosuing Act, 1949.

Twenty-five other houses were inspected following enquiries from the owners as to the possibility of obtaining improvement grants, with the following results :—

Modified scheme—done without grant...	...	...	...	...	1
Structurally unsuitable ...	...	...	...	...	7
(Owner persuaded to build four houses to replace five of this total, and these are now being built).					
Under consideration by owners...	...	...	...	...	7
Deferred, pending expedition of Village Sewerage Scheme at Stanton St. Bernard	...	...	...	...	10

It is a common experience throughout the Country that relatively few property owners are availing themselves of the grants offered under the Scheme. This fact has been acknowledged by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the revision of the Scheme is under consideration with a view to making it more widely acceptable and workable.

Activity in the field of housing repairs has of necessity been restricted pending the revision of legislation governing this matter.

The following is a copy of a return made to the County Medical Officer of Health concerning the inspection of houses during the year and action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

1. *Number of New Houses and Flats erected during the year.*
 - (a) *By Local Authority* 68
 - (b) *Private Enterprise* 13
2. *Inspection of Dwellings during the year.*
 - (i) *Inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts* 27
 - (ii) *Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts* ... 93
 - (iii) *Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation* 39
 - (iv) *Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation* 51
3. *Remedy of Defects by Informal Action.*
 - Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action* 48
4. *Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health and Housing Acts).*
 - (A) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936.*
 - (i) *Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied* ... Nil
 - (ii) *Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :—*
 - (a) *By Owners* Nil
 - (b) *By Local Authority in default of owners* ... Nil

(B) <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>				
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served ...	...	...	Nil
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :—			
(a)	By Owners ...	...	...	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...			Nil
(C) <i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, Housing Act, 1936.</i>				
(i)	Number of Demolition Orders made ...	...		2
(ii)	Number of houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders ...	...	...	4
(iii)	Number of houses demolished informally ...	...		1
(iv)	Number of undertakings accepted ...	...		Nil
(v)	Number of undertakings completed ...	...		1
(D) <i>Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26, Housing Act, 1936.</i>				
(i)	Number of Houses upon which Demolition Orders were made ...	...	...	Nil
(ii)	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	...	...	Nil
	Number of houses acquired by Council by negotiation (site to be re-developed — two tenants re-housed)			8
(E) <i>Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936.</i>				
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made			Nil
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were cancelled, as result of premises having been made fit ...			Nil
5. <i>Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.</i>				
(i)	Number of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year ...	...	...	Not known
(ii)	Number of cases discovered during the year ...			4
(iii)	Number of cases abated during the year ...	...	...	2

WATER SUPPLY.

Area Supplied.

Of the twenty-four parishes in the District nine only are totally served by water mains and eight partly served. The following is a list of the Council's water systems :—

1. The Great Cheverell System.
2. The Erlestoke System.
3. The Nursteed System.
4. The Roundway System.
5. The Brickley Lane System.
6. All Cannings Council House System.
7. Marden Council House System.
8. Chirton Council House System.

9. Urchfont Council House System.
10. Etchilhampton Council House System.
11. Patney Hostel System (Part Ownership).

TABLE I.

The amount of water supplied in 1953 from Great Cheverell, Erlestoke and Devizes Borough sources, expressed in gallons per month :—

	Great Cheverell	Erlestoke	Nursteed	Fairway	Dunkirk	Brickley Lane	Roundway
Jan.	2,875,500	—	7,050	1,601,000	665,000	16,760	9,450
Feb.	2,267,100	—	6,050	1,592,000	494,000	13,700	8,480
Mar.	2,153,100	—	7,300	2,041,000	471,000	14,100	9,480
Apr.	2,173,800	—	6,700	1,662,000	683,000	14,200	9,760
May	2,364,100	—	7,250	1,674,000	570,000	17,000	11,080
June	2,631,500	—	5,960	1,650,000	568,000	15,500	10,640
July	2,775,100	81,300	6,040	1,896,000	388,000*	15,600	11,660
Aug.	2,424,300	54,200	8,025	2,050,000	391,000*	†	†
Sept.	2,394,900	55,900	6,025	1,790,000	10,000*	31,300‡	25,800‡
Oct.	2,494,700	62,500	6,120	1,576,000	523,000	16,650	12,750
Nov.	1,946,800	56,100	6,180	1,977,000	663,000	14,150	13,790
Dec.	2,046,900	84,200	7,070	1,916,000	708,000	14,600	14,810
Amount of water estimated to have been consumed in addition to that recorded by meter during period that meter was defective at Dunkirk					1,289,600		
	28,547,800	394,200	79,770	21,425,000	7,423,600	183,560	137,700

Note. * *Dunkirk meter defective.*

† *Brickley Lane and Roundway meters inaccessible.*

‡ *Brickley Lane and Roundway meters — two months' reading.*

Supplied from Great Cheverell Borehole	...	28,547,800
Supplied from Devizes Borough		29,249,630
Supplied from Erlestoke Source		394,200

58,191,630

The total shows an increase of 2,482,641 gallons over the amount for 1952, or approximately 4%.

The following Tables II and III show the position in regard to the availability of piped water supplies :—

TABLE II.

PARISH	Details of Connections.				Estimated Population supplied	Estimated population at 1951.
	Domes- tic	PrDom. Pt.Tde	Trade	Halls etc.		
GREAT CHEVERELL SYSTEM :						
Great Cheverell ...	93	11	8	1	321	345
Market Lavington ...	280	29	20	1	1,044	1,200
Marston ...	29	9	1	—	110	110
Potterne ...	260	26	15	2	1,004	1,120
Poulshot ...	66	15	10	1	243	310
Rowde ...	169	21	15	1	665	820
Seend ...	238	39	40	—	823	880
Worton ...	100	12	5	2	330	340
Bromham* ...	55	10	—	—	228	1,480
Easterton* ...	34	1	7	—	123	430
Little Cheverell* ...	14	4	—	—	63	180
West Lavington* ...	57	2	1	—	207	975
ERLESTOKE SCHEME :						
Erlestoke ...	29	1	1	—	102	230
	1,424	180	123	8	5,263	8,420
Note. *Part only of the se parishes is supplied.						
MAIN EXTENSIONS FROM BOROUGH : PARISH OF ROUNDWAY.						
Roundway Village ...						
System ...	15	—	1	—		
Nursteed System ...	13	4	—	—		
Fairway System ...	15	1	—	—		
Brickley Lane System	10	—	—	—		
	53	5	1	—		

Note : In addition, the Devizes Borough Council supply direct 50 houses, plus Roundway Hospital and its nine private houses, the Flax Factory, Card's Garage, and a reserve to supply Roundway Farm (Mr. Pike) and cottages in the Parish of Roundway.

In the village of Bishops Cannings 84 properties are supplied by the Devizes Borough Council.

TABLE III.

Parish	No. of houses supplied	Population supplied
COUNCIL HOUSE ESTATE		
BOREHOLES :		
All Cannings	6	21
Chirton	16	56
Etchilhampton	8	28
Marden	12	42
Urchfont	22	77
Patney	4	14
Total... ..	68	238

About 250 houses are supplied by various Estate and Farm Systems in several parishes. These are in addition to the houses shown in Tables II and III.

TABLE IV.

The following is the number of new connections made to the water systems:—

	Great Cheverell System	Erlestoke System	Council House Estate Boreholes
Domestic	96	29	6
Part Domestic & Part Trade	4	1	—
Trade only	7	1	1
Church	1	—	—
Total	108	31	7

TABLE V.

Results of Samples of Great Cheverell Public Supply.

Date	Before or after Chlorination	Result
9. 3.53	Before	Bacteriologically satisfactory
9. 3.53	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory
10. 7.53	Before	Fair
10. 7.53	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory
23. 9.53	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory
31.12.53	Before	Bacteriologically satisfactory
31.12.53	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory

TABLE VI.

Results of Samples of Erlestoke Public Supply.

Date	Before or after Chlorination	Result
23. 2.53	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory
28. 2.53	Before	Fair
2. 4.53	Before	Bacteriologically unsatisfactory
10. 7.53	Before	Bacteriologically satisfactory
10. 7.53	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory
31.12.53	Before	Fair
31.12.53	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory

The Great Cheverell System. Consumption Statistics.

1. Total number of premises supplied...	...	...	...	1,704
2. Total number of metered connections	...	...	...	301
3. Total number of domestic connections	...	...	...	1,395
4. Total number of other connections (e.g., Halls, etc.)	...	...	...	8
5. Total overall consumption	...	...	...	58,082,200 glns.
6. Total metered consumption	...	...	...	23,335,980 glns.
7. Estimated total domestic consumption	...	...	...	39,323,320 glns.
8. Estimated average domestic consumption per head of the population per diem...	...	...	...	20.87 glns.
9. Estimated average overall consumption per head of population per diem	...	...	...	30.82 glns.

It should be noted that Nos. 7-9 above are estimated figures. It is not possible to give precise figures as the water which is recorded by most service meters, e.g., farms, is used for both domestic and non-domestic purposes. Again, an estimate of population (3.5 persons) per house is used in arriving at the above figures as a physical count is not practicable. No adjustment has been made for the waste factor.

Notwithstanding these assumptions the figures may be taken as reasonably reliable.

What are the main inferences to be drawn from a study of the preceding tables and statistics ?

1. 88.5 per cent. of the population of those parishes which have had water mains throughout the parish since 1937 are connected up. This is not entirely satisfactory, and measures should be taken to secure a 100 per cent. connection of properties where this is possible.

2. The domestic consumption per head of population per day, viz., 20.87 gallons, shows an increase of 31.44 per cent. compared with the figure arrived at in 1950 when the last computation was made. This is a large increase. The explanation is due in part to the fact that it is possible to make a more accurate computation for 1953 because

the 1951 Population Census figures are available as a check, whereas in 1950 the population had to be estimated. Inaccuracies in the main meters may account for some error. A further factor is that an increasing amount of water is lost through waste. This is borne out by the figures of consumption in respect of two post-War Council house estates which are as follows :—

Estate	No. of Houses	Estimated Population	Annual Consumption	Average Consumption per Head per Day
Chirton ...	16	56	327,040 glns.	16.00 gallons.
Urchfont ...	22	77	498,620 glns.	17.74 gallons.

Thus the consumption in post-War Council house estates, having a full complement of sanitary fitments, is lower than the consumption in villages which have no sewerage system and where the majority of houses are without sanitary fitments. The waste factor on the post-War housing estates is negligible as the piping is new and leaks can easily be checked.

3. The figure of 20.87 gallons per head per day is only 16.5 per cent. below the design figure of 25 gallons per head per day used for your post-War water schemes.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Increasing difficulty was experienced in maintaining a continuous supply of water to all parts of the area supplied by this System and it is understood that increasing difficulty was experienced by the Devizes Borough Council in maintaining an adequate pressure within the Town. This had its repercussions on your System, the Borough Council no doubt taking the view that consumers within the Borough had a prior call above those consumers not within the Borough. 50.6 per cent. of the total water supplied in the Great Cheverell System was obtained from the Devizes Borough source. This is an increase of 10.6 per cent. on the amount supplied in 1952.

With a view to augmenting the Great Cheverell source, work was commenced in July, 1952, for the sinking of a new borehole adjoining the existing reservoir at Great Cheverell. This operation was completed early in 1953. Despite the adoption of modern gravel pack techniques it proved impossible to prevent the influx of very fine sand into the borehole and it had unfortunately to be abandoned as a failure.

It was then decided to approach the War Department with a view to acquiring the two boreholes which supply the Senior Officers' School and V.I.S.T.R.E. Camp at Erlestoke. Relatively small use is made of these boreholes. Tests were carried out and these showed that the boreholes were capable of yielding about 5,000 gallons per hour, and provided that the Council could come to satisfactory terms with the

War Department these boreholes should prove a valuable acquisition to the Council's water sources. Negotiations had not been completed at the end of the year.

Owing to inadequate and inexperienced personnel it has not been possible to devote to the detection and prevention of waste the attention which this problem deserves. It is obviously unwise to incur heavy capital expenditures to augment and improve the discharge capacity of an existing water system if that system is leaking extensively or if water is being misused or unduly consumed. The first step must be to reduce waste to a minimum and to keep consumption within reasonable limits, otherwise the capital and operational costs on both the existing system and the proposed augmentation are wasted. This is emphasised in a Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular of the 22nd June, 1952, which states, inter alia, that "If the need for new work is due to increased consumption of water, the authority should satisfy themselves before submitting proposals, that the demand cannot be reduced by new or improved measures for the detection and prevention of waste. Efficient measures of this kind will sometimes postpone the need for new capital expenditure for several years. All water undertakings are, therefore, asked, in their own interests, to review their existing measures for reducing waste and to extend them where practicable."

POST WAR WATER SCHEMES.

North Western, North Eastern and South Eastern Area Schemes.

Excellent progress in regard to these Schemes was made and it was clear towards the end of the year that work would commence in 1954. **Southern Area Scheme (The Warren).**

Practically no progress was made in regard to this Scheme owing to difficulties in regard to acquiring the source.

If the Council's proposals in regard to the acquisition of the V.I.S.T.R.E. boreholes materialise, very careful consideration will have to be given as to the necessity or desirability of proceeding with this Scheme.

SEWERAGE.

The Council are responsible for :—

13.6 miles of public piped sewer.

4.4 miles of public sewer ditch.

Several miles of private sewer and drains on Council house estates.

21 sewage works.

Surveys for the purpose of determining the existing drainage arrangements and the need for properly designed sewerage systems were carried out in the Parishes of West Lavington, Easterton, Market Lavington, Urchfont, Seend and Stanton St. Bernard. A mass of useful information was obtained, the salient features of which were produced at the enquiries of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government

which were held into three proposed schemes. The information will also be most useful when the schemes materialise and a valuable aid for sorting out the difficulties which arise from joint drains, combined surface water and sewage drains and multi-ownerships, etc.

Plans of forty-one septic tanks and drainage systems for forty-eight houses were approved. These figures do not include Council house estates having self-contained drainage plants.

New drainage systems for existing houses in respect of five houses at Potterne and five houses at Erlestoke were approved for connection to the new sewerage schemes in these Parishes. Plans were also approved for drainage connections to the new sewerage schemes in respect of three new houses at Potterne and four new Council houses at Erlestoke.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Particulars of foods condemned as unfit for human consumption are as follow:—

Beef (portions of four separate quarters)	79½ lbs.	Fractured aitch-bone — blood suffused musculature.
Pork	29 lbs.	Broken shoulder blade and aitch bone — blood suffused musculature.
Two 12oz. tins of Australian Beef Loaf.	1½ lbs.	Blown.

In addition, the following were condemned at the Central Wilts Bacon Factory during the absence of the Borough Sanitary Inspector:—

3 Pigs	Jaundice.
2 Pigs	Generalised Tuberculosis.
1 Pig's Head	Tuberculosis.

The standard of cleanliness in retail establishments is fairly good on the whole. See Summary for number of inspections made.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There are seven registered "Distributors" operating in the District and only two of these have premises within the area.

A number of other persons produce and retail milk in the District but in these cases the Council are only concerned with the cleanliness of the milk after it has left the producers' premises.

Three Dealer's Licences and one Supplementary Licence to use the designation "Pasteurised" and two Dealer's Licences and one Supplementary Licence to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" were issued.

ICE CREAM.

There are twenty-six registered retailers of ice cream in the area. The premises are satisfactory. Most ice cream now sold is wrapped and there is little chance of contamination of the product at the place of sale. All ice cream is stored in electric conservators.

FOOD POISONING.

No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Each year the Council's commitments respecting the collection and disposal of refuse increase owing to the erection of new houses and minor extensions to include properties not hitherto collected from. Most routes are becoming overloaded. In the 1952 Annual Report I indicated that it would be necessary in the near future to reorganise the refuse collection system and incur additional expenditure. It is becoming increasingly obvious that reorganisation must take place in 1954-55.

The machinery for the collection and disposal of the waste products of a population of about 13,000 comprises only one refuse vehicle, two men (with occasional part-time help) and one refuse tip. This complement is far below that employed by similar authorities of which I have knowledge. If a reasonably good standard of service is to be maintained additional expenditure will have to be incurred.

Disposal is by a modified system of controlled tipping which is working satisfactorily with freedom from nuisance. Not the least factor in this respect has been the quantity of soil which I have managed to obtain from excavations on housing sites and other works. Large quantities are required to cover the refuse.

Nuisance from flies, smoke, rats and windswept paper arose from the operation of the Seend refuse tip during the year. This tip is let to a Contractor for the disposal of refuse from certain Service Establishments principally within the Council's area. Despite repeated attempts to prevent nuisance arising at this tip, it was found necessary ultimately to stop the Contractor tipping any further refuse.

The refuse vehicle covered a total mileage of 11,669 at an average of approximately 8.67 miles per gallon.

The total cost of collection and disposal of refuse for the year ended 31st March, 1953, was £1,523 8s. 6d., and the net cost after deducting income received (£156 4s. 10d.) was £1,367 3s. 8d. The approximate cost of the service per head of population was 1s. 9.17d., and the approximate cost per head of the population served was 2s. 1.24d.

RODENT CONTROL.

The arrangement for the sharing of the work of the Rodent Operative with the Devizes Borough Council was continued.

The following is a copy of the Return made to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the work done under this head in respect of the fifteen months ended 31st March, 1954:—

RODENT CONTROL

	Type of Property.				
	Local Authy.	Dwelling Houses.	Agricultural.	All Other (including business premises)	Total
I. Total number of properties in the District ...	6	2,783	845*	244	3,878
II. Number of properties inspected during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954, as a result of (a) notification (b) survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949; (c) otherwise, e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose ...	(a) —	26	2	3	31
	(b) 6	371	36	27	440
	(c) —	—	—	5	5
	(c) —	—	—	5	5
III. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats ...	Major 3	—	1	3	7
	Minor 3	163	2	15	183
IV. Number of properties inspected (See Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice	—	1	—	1	2
V. Number of infested properties (See Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority ...	6	160	3	19	188
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act :					
(1) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing) ...	—	—	—	—	—
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out	17				

Note. * This includes agricultural service cottages.

FACTORIES ACT.

There are fifty-three factories in the District. Particulars of inspections and action taken are as follow:—

Twenty-three inspections were made during the year. Cases in which defects were found are tabulated below.

Particulars of Defect.	No.	Action.
Cleanliness of Factories	2	Remedied 2
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	Remedied 1
Defective walls to bakehouse	1	Remedied 1
Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences...	1	Outstanding 1

In addition plans were approved for the rebuilding and enlarging of a building used for motor vehicle repairs.

Eighteen outworkers operate in the District. All are engaged upon the making of wearing apparel.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

~~Licences~~

~~Licences~~ were in force in respect of five sites. Individual licences were granted in respect of six moveable dwellings.

COMPLAINTS.

The following table shows the position in regard to complaints made to your Officers either verbally or by correspondence.

Type of Complaint	Number	Remedied	Out-standing	No action necessary
Housing (excluding Council houses)	12	4	8	—
Overcrowding... ..	4	2	2	—
Insanitary houses	13	12	1	—
Sewerage	12	12	—	—
Drainage	39	38	—	1
River Pollution	1	1	—	—
Water Supply... ..	13	12	1	—
Refuse	17	16	—	1
Keeping of Animals	7	5	—	2
Fly Infestation	4	4	—	—
Rodent Infestation	7	7	—	—
Footpaths	4	4	—	—
Miscellaneous... ..	8	6	—	2
Totals	141	123	12	6

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT AND BUILDING BYELAWS.

167 plans were submitted for approval.

The explanation of the complicated procedures in regard to the submission of plans and application for licences, etc., made heavy inroads on the time of your Officers. In many cases applicants were not willing to engage professional assistance from persons who are acquainted with the complexities of the law governing these matters; this means that your officers have to fulfil that role.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	192
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Building	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	535
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	341
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	686
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	375
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Food ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Workshops and Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	620
Town and Country Planning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	155
Building Licensing Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94

